

Serial No. 10/662,973
Art Unit 2829

REMARKS

Claims 1-23 were presented for examination in the present application and remain pending upon entry of the instant response.

The Office Action requires restriction among the method of Group I (claims 1-9 and 16-22) and the system of Group II (claims 10-15 and 23). Applicants elect, with traverse, the invention of Group II, which includes claims 10-15 and 23.

Applicants traverse the Requirement for Restriction on the ground that searching and examining the subject matter of Group I along with elected Group II does not place a serious burden on the Examiner. If the search and examination of an entire application can be made without serious burden, the examiner must examine it on the merits, even though it includes claims to independent or distinct inventions. See MPEP 803.

In the present application, Groups I and II are both classified in class 324 and, thus, searching and examining the subject matter of Group I along with elected Group II does not place a serious burden on the Examiner. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the Requirement for Restriction with regard to Group I (claims 1-9 and 16-22).

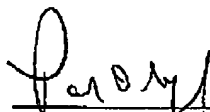
In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for examination. Applicants respectfully request favorable consideration and passage of this application to allowance.

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If for any reason the Examiner feels that consultation with Applicants' attorney would be helpful in the advancement of the prosecution, the Examiner is invited to call the telephone number below.

Respectfully submitted,

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